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General and complete disarmament: problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

Bulgaria, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey: draft resolution

Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

The General Assembly,

Mindful of contributing to the process initiated in the framework of the United Nations reform to make the Organization more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction,

Underlining the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to disarmament through the development of practical measures in order to respond to new threats to peace and security,

Recalling the report of the group of experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,[1]

Aware of the security, safety and destabilization risks arising from the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive materials and detonating devices declared to be surplus by the competent national authorities of numerous countries that may have detrimental effects on populations and the environment, as well as State security, owing to possible illicit trafficking and dissemination to criminal or terrorist groups,

Underlining the close link between illicit conventional arms and the ammunition for such arms and the need to coordinate the response to those two issues,

Mindful of the fact that the consequences of illicit trafficking in ammunition can be just as devastating as the consequences of illicit trafficking in weapons,

[1] See A/54/155.

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Noting with satisfaction the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

Recalling its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 to include the question of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in the agenda of its sixtieth session,

1. *Appeals* to all interested States to assess whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive materials and detonating devices should be considered to be in surplus;

2. *Recognizes* that the security of stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that the appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive materials and detonating devices are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

3. *Calls upon* all interested States to determine the size of their surplus stockpiles of ammunition, explosive materials and detonating devices if they represent a security risk and if external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

4. *Encourages* States capable of doing so to assist interested States in a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve their management;

5. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to combat illicit trafficking in conventional ammunition in all its aspects;

6. *Recalls* the invitation to all Member States to implement the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report submitted by the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,[2] namely to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States regarding the risks arising from stockpiles of conventional ammunition in excess of defence needs and regarding national ways of strengthening controls on conventional ammunition, and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Conventional ammunition".

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[2] A/60/88 and Corr.2.